



THE **link**

The Link's Youth Programming

www.thelinkmn.org

612.871.0748

Housing

The Link offers a continuum of programs for youth and young families who are experiencing homelessness which include a Street Outreach Program, a Drop-In Center (C.O.R.E.) Emergency Shelter for minor youth (Dignity House) and ten housing programs. The Link's Street Outreach Program and C.O.R.E. Drop-In Center help to identify at-risk and homeless youth and assist them with any current crisis or immediate needs; C.O.R.E. also provides on-going services to help youth move out of crisis. The Link operates housing programs across the Twin Cities Metro Area (with 200+ units) for youth and young families who are experiencing homelessness. One of these housing programs, Project Live Out Loud, is culturally specific to youth who identify as LGBTQ+, the PERIS Housing Program is designed for youth aging out of foster care, and The Young Families Program includes housing and services designed specifically to serve young parents and their children. All of The Link's housing programs provide a safe and stable place for youth to live, along with the support and services they need to achieve their goals and transition out of homelessness.

Contact Housing and Services Division Directors: James Lewis at jlewis@thelinkmn.org or (612) 287-1642
Kesha Bradford at kbradford@thelinkmn.org or (612) 558-3584

Youth Advocacy

The Link has six programs that provide support to young people who are at-risk or who are currently involved in the juvenile justice system. These programs provide an alternative response to the juvenile justice system for youth with the understanding that if young people have their basic needs met, positive support and access to services to help them with the hardships they experience, they will be less likely to be involved in criminal activity. School Matters specifically helps youth who have been truant get back into school, stay in school, and helps to prevent them from dropping out. The Youth Connection Center (YCC) provides a safe place for law enforcement to drop off youth who have committed low level or status offenses, or who have been sexually exploited, in order to receive supportive services. The Community Navigator Program, Marshall Reed Youth Center (MRYC) and P.O.W.E.R. Program provide supportive services and case management for youth who have committed higher level offense and are referred through Hennepin County Probation. A culturally specific program for African American parents of youth who are in the YCC or School Matters Program is also available to provide support, assistance with basic needs and parenting skills education.

Contact: Blaine Turnbull, Youth Advocacy Division Director, btturnbull@thelinkmn.org or (612) 767-4471

Safe Harbor

The Link's Safe Harbor Programs operate in partnership with the State of Minnesota's No Wrong Door Response for Sexually Exploited Youth, which was created in response to Minnesota's Safe Harbor Law. The Link provides a continuum of services for sexually exploited youth that includes the West Metro Regional Navigator Program, which provides a first point of contact; crisis intervention and on-going mobile services; the Passageways Emergency Shelter and Housing Program, which provide a safe place for victims of trafficking between the ages of 12 and 24 to live while receiving specialized services: mental health advocacy, educational support and aftercare services. All of our Safe Harbor Programs are specifically designed to help youth heal from the trauma of being sex trafficked, and support them in achieving the positive goals they have for themselves and their future.

Contact: CeMarr Peterson, Safe Harbor Division Director, cpeterson@thelinkmn.org or (612) 232-8385



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Support youth and families in The Link programming through a financial contribution. Visit www.thelinkmn.org/donate to learn more.



Volunteer! Visit www.thelinkmn.org/volunteer for upcoming opportunities and to find resources for hosting donations drives to supply basic need items to youth in our programs.



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Join us at one of our events! Learn more about upcoming events at thelinkmn.org/events.